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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Phone: (703) 351-7676

Ms. Meg Greenfield
Editor of Editorial Page
THE WASHINGTON POST
1150 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20071

Dear Ms. Greenfield:

It is with regret that I must once again write to take exception to the inaccurate and tendentious rendering of facts in a POST editorial. The editorial "Fighting Fire with Fire" on 14 May 1985 repeats the POST's false accusation by anonymous sources that CIA "set up" a counterterrorist squad in Lebanon that later was responsible for a car bomb killing innocent people. It ignores the Agency's official statement reported in an article in the POST only two pages later that categorically denies the Agency had trained any such group to carry out terrorist actions. I again repeat such training never occurred, nor did the Agency have any direct or indirect involvement with the group that did the bombing. Moreover, it had no foreknowledge of the bombing.

Your editorial castigates the U.S. Government for a lack of morality. One has to wonder what kind of morality it is that leads the POST to make a connection between the Agency and the bombing when there was none, as the POST had been told before it published its story.

George V. Lauder
Director, Public Affairs

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